Report of National Forest Commission

†468. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Forest Commission has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the date on which this report was submitted;

(c) the reasons mentioned in this report for rapid deforestation in the country; and

(d) the targets fixed by Government at present for expansion of forest cover in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report of the National Forest Commission was submitted to the Government on 28.3.2006

(c) The reasons mentioned in the report for rapid deforestation are collection of fuelwood, grazing, forest fire, shifting cultivation, encroachment, mining and quarrying, faulty road construction in hills, pesticides, developmental projects and invasive species etc.

(d) The monitorable target for the expansion of forest and tree cover in the country has been fixed as to achieve 25% by 2007 & 33% by 2012.

Project reports for environmental clearance

469. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR.
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 631 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 2006 and state:

†Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra have since submitted revised project reports to Government for implementation under the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) This Ministry has not received the revised detailed project reports for the towns of Pandharpur, Prakasha and Paithan from the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

Poshir Dam Project

470. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1232 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 2006 and state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra have since furnished the details pertaining to flora and fauna in connection with Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Project State-ll (Poshir Dam Project); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No proposal for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Poshir Dam Project has been received by the Ministry of Environment and Forests so far. As far as grant of Environment Clearance is concerned, the required Environment Impact Assessment report of the project has not been received from the project authority.

Recognition of Forest Rights Bill, 2005

471. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Forests Commission has expressed reservations on the - provisions of the "Recognition of Forest Rights Bill, 2005";